

October 29, 2004

The Honorable Joseph Kernan  
Governor of the State of Indiana  
State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Kernan:

In accordance with IC 20-10.1-25.1, this letter provides you with an annual update of progress on the Buddy System Project administered by the Corporation for Educational Technology (CET).

The attached report portrays another exceptional year for the project now in our 17<sup>th</sup> year of existence. As the nation's first and foremost endeavor to extend learning beyond the classroom, Buddy has provided home computer access and extended learning opportunities to over 30,000 Hoosier youngsters, some of whom have taken their place in the workforce and others who are now pursuing studies for promising careers.

Despite our rich history, the CET Board of Directors in 2000-01 made sweeping changes to the project to focus more on facilitating student academic achievement and growing our professional development capacity. All of our new activities align with PL 221 to better serve the needs of education in our state. To signal the differences between the old Buddy program and the new one, the Board renamed the project as Buddy<sup>2</sup>, the Next Generation of Teaching & Learning.

While Buddy<sup>2</sup> now operates several different projects, including the BTLC training center to effect knowledge transfer, the flagship project of Buddy<sup>2</sup> is its *STAR Writers* program.

The attached reports summarize the important accomplishments in student writing growth that schools participating in the *STAR Writers* project have gained in the first three years of implementation. For example, across the group of all students, all schools, all grades, the percentage of participants passing *STAR*-determined mastery improved for writing development by 23 points from 46% to 69%; and improved in language conventions by 22 points from 58% to 80%. For students who participated in the program for a full three years, the gains were greatest with a 30 point gain (46% to 76% mastery) in Writing Development, and a 29 point gain (59% to 88% mastery) in Language Conventions.

We have several improvements currently underway for the fourth year of the program and look forward to continued growth in project effectiveness. Though budget cuts have necessarily limited the scope of our operations, we are excited by our results and foresee further improvements in student achievement for the coming year.

We again thank you for the generous support your Office has always given the project and we look forward to serving the state with the exciting new mission we have undertaken. If there are questions on the report or about the project, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Marvin E. Bailey, President

Cc: The Honorable Robert Garton  
The Honorable Patrick Bauer  
Dr. Suellen Reed  
CET Board of Directors